

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

TREASURY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 179523

COGARD FOR POLAD

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SPOKESMAN SAYS DOD NOTES CONTINUING BUILDUP OF NVN FORCES, BUT IS LESS CONCERNED THAN LAST WEEK ABOUT THREAT OF INTENSIFIED FIGHTING IN SVN (REUTER, NYT).

2. GVN DELIVERS REMAINS OF TWO US SOLDIERS KILLED DURING 1968 TET OFFENSIVE TO US OFFICERS; BODIES TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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FLOWN TO CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN THAILAND FOR IDENTIFICATION (AP, BALTO N-A 8/14; CHITRIB). REMAINS LOCATED IN QUANG TRI AND IN HUE (AP, PHINQ).

3. GVN COMMAND SAYS ROCKETS FIRED AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE DAY (REUTER, NYT); REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING ERUPTS ON CENTRAL COAST (REUTER, NYPOST 8/14), WHERE CLAIMS 70 COMMUNISTS KIA AROUND HAOI NHON NEAR ROUTE 1 (REUTER, NYT). MIL SOURCES SAY TANK-SUPPORTED NVA TROOPS LAUNCH SURPRISE ATTACK AGAINST ARVN CAMP FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF SAIGON, BRING MONTH-LONG MIL CAMPAIGN INTO CAPITAL AREA FOR FIRST TIME. OTHER COMMUNIST UNITS STRIKE AT GVN MILITIA POST 55 MILES NW OF SAIGON NEAR KHMER BORDER (REUTER SAIGON).

4. VC SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON DECLARES 80,000 PEOPLE "FREED" FROM GVN CONTROL AND 12,600 GOVT TROOPS "PUT OUT OF ACTION" IN MONTH-LONG SERIES OF THRUSTS IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL SVN (REUTER, NYT). MAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN FRONT OF NATL ASSEMBLY BUILDING IN SAIGON BY POURING GASOLINE OVER SELF AND LIGHTING IT (REUTER SAIGON).

5. GKR COMMAND SAYS 26 INSURGENTS KIA IN FIERCE FIGHTING NEAR KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE CAPITAL, 46 MILES NW OF PP (WP; REUTER CHITRIB, NYT). REBELS SHELL ISOLATED KOMPONG SEILA, 74 MILES SW OF PP ON ROUTE 4 AND LONG VEK, 20 MILES NORTH OF CAPITAL. KAF BOMBS INSURGENTS POSITION 17 MILES NW OF PP WHERE HEAVY GROUND FIGHTING REPORTED (REUTER, NYT).

6. DOCTORS IN VIENTIANE PRESCRIBE TRIP ABROAD FOR SOUVANNA WHO EXPECTED TO FLY TO FRANCE IN ABOUT WEEK TO RECUPERATE (AP NYDN, NYPOST 8/14).

KOREA

7. REUTER (SEOUL) REPORTS MRS. PARK WAS SLAIN THURSDAY BY GUNMAN ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE PRES PARK DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES AT NATIONAL THEATER. GUNMAN SAID TO BE KOREAN LIVING IN JAPAN; SEOUL POLICE SOURCES SAY HE HAD PASSPORT WITH NAME YUKIO YOSHII, WHILE UNCLASSIFIED

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JAPANESE POLICE SAY IN TOKYO HIS NAME IS MUN SE KWANG. AFTER SHOOTING, PARK RESUMED HIS SPEECH WHILE WIFE WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL, AND HE LATER ATTENDED OPENING OF SEOUL'S NEW UNDERGROUND RAILWAY. AP SEOUL SAYS IT WAS FIRST KNOWN DIRECT ATTEMPT ON PARK'S LIFE SINCE HE CAME TO POWER (SUN).

NYT'S HALLORAN, IN SEOUL, SAYS JUST HOW ASSAILANT GOT THROUGH USUALLY AIRTIGHT SECURITY AROUND PARK WAS NOT KNOWN. WP'S OBERDORFER, IN SEOUL, NOTES SCENE WAS WITNESSED BY AMBASSADOR HABIB, US GEN. STILWELL, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, AND ROK NATIONAL LEADERS.

IN INDEPENDENCE DAY REMARKS, PARK PROPOSED
THREE-STAGE PLAN FOR KOREAN REUNIFICATION: FIRM
ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE ON PENINSULA; OPENING OF
DOORS BY BOTH KOREAS TO EACH OTHER AND RESTORATION
OF MUTUAL TRUST; AND FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS THROUGHOUT
KOREA UNDER "FAIR ELECTION MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION,
AND IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION"

OF THE TWO SIDES (REUTER SEOUL).

8. SK DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNOUNCES MIL COURT HAS
CONVICTED 36 MORE FOR PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW PARK --
BRINGING TO 171 NUMBER CONVICTED SINCE JANUARY 8,
ACCORDING AP SEOUL (BALTO N-A, AUG. 14). OBERDORFER
OBSERVES HOW THIS NEWS COMES AS SEOUL RECEIVED WORD OF
DEEP SENATE COMMITTEE CUTS IN US MIL AID AND "PUBLIC
EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN" FROM WH AND DOS. OBERDORFER
REFERS TO "STATEMENT" BY WH PRESS SECRETARY TERHORST
"EXPRESSING PRESIDENT FORD'S CONCERN ABOUT POLITICAL
PRISONERS" IN SK. HALLORAN OBSERVES THAT NO EXPLANATION
OF CHARGES OR PRISON TERMS WAS OFFERED BY SK GOVT.

9. ROK TELLS JAPAN IT HAS SUSPENDED INVESTIGATION
INTO KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE
ABOUT WHO WAS INVOLVED (CSM, NYPOST 8/14). KIMURA
TOLD REPORTERS HIS GOVT IS DISSATISFIED WITH SK'S
DECISION AND WILL ASK DETAILED EXPLANATION, ACCORDING
AP SEOUL (PHINQ, NYPOST 8/14). OBERDORFER THINKS
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JAPANESE PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL OPINION IS LIKELY TO
BE FURTHER INFLAMED BY SK DECISION IN KIM TAE-CHUNG
CASE. HALLORAN REPORTS KIM EXPRESSING SHOCK AT
SK ATTITUDE AND REGRET "THAT MY CASE CANNOT BE SOLVED."

10. IN ST. PAUL, MINN., AMERICAN JESUIT MISSIONS
CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY PROTESTED ARREST AND CONVICTION
OF BISHOP CHI AND OTHER SK CHURCHMEN, STUDENTS AND
POLITICAL LEADERS; PARLEY SENDS MESSAGE TO STEPHEN
CARDINAL KIM DEPLORING SEOUL TRIALS (NYT).

JAPAN

11. WH ANNOUNCES PRES. FORD'S ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION
TO VISIT JAPAN BEFORE YEAR'S END (SHABECOFF, NYT).
NO DATE ANNOUNCED,BUT UNDERSTOOD TRIP WOULD OCCUR
LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER AT EARLIEST (SUN).
FORD WILL BE FIRST AMERICAN PRES TO VISIT JAPAN
WHILE IN OFFICE (VAN RIPER, NYDN).

12. JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS SAY AWOL SEAMAN MIKE HAMMOND
TOLD COURT-MARTIAL IN TOKYO HE REFUSED TO RETURN

TO CARRIER MIDWAY BECAUSE SHIP BROUGHT NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPAN; "MISTREATMENT" ALSO GIVEN AS REASON (UPI NYDN, WP).

13. JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS HIGH INFLATION RATE IS FORCING JAPAN'S DEFENSE AGENCY TO CONSIDER SCRAPPING

4TH DEFENSE BUILDUP PROGRAM, DESPITE 15.7 BILLION DOLS BUDGETED FOR 5 YEAR TERM, AND GOING TO SINGLE YEAR DEFENSE BUDGETS. DETERRED BY REALIZATION THAT NEXT LONG-TERM PROGRAM COULD REQUIRE BUDGET OVER 34 BILLION DOLS JUST TO MAINTAIN CURRENT STRENGTH. PLANS TO BEEF UP MILITARY CAPACITY IN JEOPARDY. INFLATION HAS ALREADY PRODUCED CUTBACKS IN PURCHASES; ONLY HALF OF CURRENT APPROPRIATION USEABLE FOR BUYING EQUIPMENT, WHILE REMAINDER COVERS INCREASES IN PERSONNEL, FOOD, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS. BUT LDP AGREES WITH ITS INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS THAT ADVANCE IN DEFENSE INDUSTRY NOT ONLY NECESSARY, BUT SHOULD BE SUPPORTED
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BY GOVT SUBSIDIES.

14. JAPAN WILL PROBABLY REACH LIMITS OF ITS OIL STORAGE CAPACITY BY MONTH'S END--ABOUT 69 DAYS CONSUMPTION. MEASURES TAKEN TO LESSEN PRESSURE ON STORAGE FACILITIES INCLUDE SLOWING SPEED OF APPROACHING TANKERS, DELAYING THEIR UNLOADING, AND GIVING REFINERIES PERMISSION TO EXPORT HEAVY OIL FOR THERMAL POWER GENERATION. JAPAN COMMITMENT TO PROJECT TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO 90 DAYS WILL BE SPREAD OVER THREE YEARS, POSSIBLY LONGER. GOJ EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO DEAL WITH SURFEIT BY CUTTING IMPORTS, WISHING TO CEMENT RELATIONS WITH PRODUCERS (JOC).

15. JAPANESE FIRMS WILL PROBABLY FAIL IN BID TO UNDERTAKE AT LEAST HALF OF SUEZ CANAL ENLARGEMENT, PROBABLY ENDING UP WITH ONLY ABOUT 1/4 OF JOB (JOC).

16. SONY WINS EXEMPTION FROM TREAS DEPT RULING THAT JAPANESE FIRMS DUMPING TV'S ON US MARKET (WSJ; AP, NYT).

17. TOYOTA SAYS AUTO OUTPUT UP 11.2 PERCENT FROM JUNE, BUT STILL DOWN 7.4 PERCENT FROM LAST JULY (DJ, NYPOST 8/14).

18. JAPANESE SHIPPERS OPPOSE PLANNED IMPOSITION OF PORT ENTRY CHARGES FOR ALL VESSELS CALLING AT JAPANESE PORTS (JOC).

19. JAPAN'S NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING CAPACITY EXPECTED TO BE 60 MILLION KW, OR ESTIMATED QUARTER OF NATION'S TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY 1985, ACCORDING PLANS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY TOKYO (JOC).

20. GLOBE'S STORIN IN TOKYO REPORTS CITY-WEARY GRADS, DISCOURAGED BY SMOG-LADEN ATMOSPHERE AND INDUSTRIES THAT CAUSED IT, COMPETING FOR JOBS IN LOCAL GOVTS. RECENT EXAMS FOR PREFECTURAL POSITIONS DREW GREATEST RESPONSE IN JAPAN'S HISTORY. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM UNIVERSITY GRADS FOR NATIONAL GOVT POSITIONS MAINLY IN TOKYO SHOWED 2 PERCENT INCREASE THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 28 PERCENT JUMP BETWEEN '71 AND '73.

NEW ZEALAND

21. DEFMIN FAULKNER SAYS CLAIM THAT NZ TROOPS KILLED SIX US GI'S FOUND TORTURING VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS IS APPARENTLY HOAX. TELLS HOUSE OF REPS NO FURTHER INFO HAS COME TO LIGHT SINCE INVESTIGATION SPURRED BY MAN WHO BROUGHT FORTH CHARGE ON RADIO TALK SHOW. MAN REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF OR GIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION UNLESS GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION THAT FAULKNER LATER SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE (REUTER WELLINGTON).

AUSTRALIA

22. SOVIET VIOLINIST ERMOLENKO HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE TO SAY HE WANTS TO GO HOME. AIRLINE WORKERS CONTINUE TO PREVENT HIS DEPARTURE, SAYING THEY WILL EXTEND BAN ADDITIONAL 24 HOURS TO LET HIM THINK IT OVER (CHITRIB; WP).

PHILIPPINES

23. AMEX INTERNATIONAL, LONDON-BASED MERCHANT BANK, PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO GOP AND NATIONAL POWER CORP FOR FINANCING TWO 600 MEGAWATT NUCLEAR UNITS TO SERVICE MANILA AREA; ESTIMATED COSTING OVER 700 MILLION DOLS (JOC).

24. INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BASED ON LOS BANOS 40 MILES SOUTH OF MANILA, PURSUING GOAL OF DEVELOPING HIGH YIELD RICE WITH 25 PERCENT GAIN IN PROTEIN CONTENT RICE CAN BE BRED WITH 13 OR 14 PERCENT PROTEIN, BUT THESE STRAINS HAVE LOWER YIELDS (UPI, BALT N-A 8/14).

BURMA

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25. IRRAWADDY RIVER HAS OVERFLOWED BANKS AT PROME, WSS
CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR ROUGHLY 1/3 OF CITY'S 148,000

INHABITANTS (UPI, PHINQ).

FRENCH A-TESTS

26. REUTER PARIS REPORTS INFORMED SOURCES SAY FRANCE
HAS MADE MAJOR PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING MULTIPLE
NUCLEAR WARHEAD MISSILE AS RESULT OF S. PACIFIC
TESTS. MISSILES EXPECTED OPERATIONAL BEFORE END
OF DECADE (WP; CSM). -

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

27. GROC PRESS COUNSELOR FRANK TAO WRITES SUN LETTER
TAKING EXCEPTION TO BARNETT'S JULY 24 SUN ARTICLE,
"BUTTRESSING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE." AMONG OTHER
THINGS, SAYS BARNETT'S "BIASED" SUGGESTIONS ARE
VERY DAMAGING TO GROC, HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON FREE
NATIONS OF ASIA, AND ARE NOT IN LINE WITH BASIC, LONG-
TERM INTERESTS OF US. ADDS THAT ANY PROPOSAL OR
UNDERTAKING ON PART OF FREE WORLD THAT WOULD GIVE
PRC COMFORT OR OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE ITS
CONTROL OF CHINESE MAINLAND IS TANTAMOUNT TO
STRENGTHENING ITS BONDAGE OVER PEOPLE THERE AND
FRUSTRATING FERVENT HOPES OF ALL CHINESE WHO CHERISH
LIBERTY TO BUILD FREE NATION PURSUANT TO THEIR
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ESTABLISHED VALUES.

28. GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS IN PEKING CITES AUGUST
ISSUE OF RED FLAG RENEWING WARNING AGAINST "FOREIGN
WORSHIPPING" AND "WHOLESALE WESTERNIZATION." HOWEVER,
BURNS EXPRESSES UNCERTAINTY WHETHER RED FLAG ARTICLE
REPRESENTS OPENING OF NEW OFFENSIVE BY MILITANTS
ANXIOUS TO PUT DISTANCE INTO CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH
WEST OR SIMPLY AN EXERCISE IN IDEOLOGICAL POSTURING
NOT INTENDED TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT ON PRESENT
POLICIES. NOTES DIPLOMATS IN PEKING ARE GENERALLY
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CONFIDENT PRC'S AMIABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD WEST WILL
PREVAIL FOR FORSEEABLE FUTURE; THEY BASE CONFIDENCE
ON "SOVIET IMPERATIVE" - NECESSITY FOR PEKING TO HAVE
BENIGN RELATIONS WITH WEST SO LONG AS ENMITY WITH

MOSCOW CONTINUES (CSM).

IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, BURNS MAKES BRIEF COMPARISON

BETWEEN GPCR AND CURRENT ANTI-CONFUCIUS, ANTI-LIN CAMPAIGN. NOTES WHILE OUTCOME OF LATTER IS STILL UNCERTAIN, BIG DIFFERENCE IS THAT PARTY REMAINED FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN WITH RADICALS BEING REMINDED REPEATEDLY THAT CAMPAIGN MUST BE CONDUCTED UNDER PARTY LEADERSHIP; IN GPCR, RED GUARDS ALL BUT DESTROYED PARTY. CONCLUDES THAT WHAT MIGHT BE UNFOLDING IS SOPHISTICATION OF MAOIST POLITICAL PROCESS IN WHICH BASIC POLICY CHANGES CAN BE MADE AND ABUSES CORRECTED WITHOUT DRAMA AND UPHEAVAL. ADDS THAT CHOU PLAYS PREDOMINANT ROLE AS STABILIZING FACTOR IN THIS PROCESS.

INDOCHINA

29. CDN'S LARRY GREEN (AUG 10-11) SAYS N. VIET LEADERS ALWAYS CONSIDERED NIXON UNPREDICTABLE AND WERE GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE PUTTING OFF NEW OFFENSIVE UNTIL HIS TERM WAS NEARLY OVER. NOTING THAT IN LAST SIX WEEKS NVN HAS MOUNTED MASSIVE EFFORT TO MOVE SUPPLIES AND AMMO TO TROOPS THROUGHOUT SVN, AND CITING "HIGHLY-PLACED SOURCE" THAT FIGHTING HAS ALREADY REACHED LEVEL OF NORMAL WARFARE IN VN, GREEN SAYS FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS TO FACE FORD AS PRES MAY BE VN. REPORTS BELIEF THAT NVN IS BANKING ON US NOT COMING UP WITH ADDITIONAL AID MONEY AND NOT COMMITTING FIGHTER-BOMBERS STILL BASED IN THAILAND.

30. NYPOST (AUG 14) EXPRESSES AGREEMENT WITH HOUSE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE SVN AID TO 700 MILLION THIS FY. SAYS REASON FOR REDUCTION IS SOUNDLY BASED ON CONVICTION UNRESTRICTED ASSISTANCE TO THIEU GOVT IS PROLONGING WAR AND ACTUALLY DISCOURAGING PEACE
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NEGOTIATIONS. US INVESTMENT IN "FREE" INDOCHINA, THROUGH ITS SUPPORT OF VARIOUS DICTATORIAL REGIMES, HAS YET TO RETURN AN HONORABLE DIVIDEND; IT WILL REMAIN PERPETUALLY LOSING PROPOSITION, SAYS NYPOST. "IT HAS LONG SINCE BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT CONSTRUCTING A PEACE IS HOPELESS IF THE ONLY TOOLS AT HAND CONSIST OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF WAR."

GENERAL

31. CHALKLEY IN HK (CSM) DOES FEATURE ARTICLE ON ASIAN HIGHWAY. NOTES ESCAP HAS ABOLISHED PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE THROUGH WHICH PARTICIPATING

COUNTRIES CONSULTED ON PLANS FOR ROAD SCHEME; PROJECT
THUS PLACED IN "PENDING" FILE. REPORTS MOST SUCCESS-

FUL PARTICIPANTS OF ROAD SCHEME, WHICH CONNECTS WE
TO SINGAPORE AND SAIGON, HAVE BEEN W. ASIAN NATIONS,
WHERE ROAD SYSTEM IS ALMOST COMPLETE. INDIA'S
SECTIONS ARE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF COMPLETION;
ROADS FROM THAILAND DOWN TO SINGAPORE AND UP TO
VIENTIANE ARE IN GOOD SHAPE. BUT TWO GAPS REMAIN:
IN BURMA, WHERE HIGHWAYS ARE ONLY DOTTED LINES ON
MAP, DRAWN AS PROMISES; OTHER GAP IS ACROSS BATTLE-
SCARRED PLAINS AND HILLS AND RIVERS OF CAMBODIA
AND SVN. ONE PLANNED ROUTE RUNS UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE
TO TRIBAL AND POLITICAL TENSIONS IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE.
AND IN INDOCHINA, PROBLEM IS THAT HANOI WOULD RESIST
ANY EAST-WEST MAIN TRANSPORT ROUTES - N.VIET
STRATEGY BEING TO BUILD NORTH-SOUTH ROADS THROUGH
LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VN. KISSINGER

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